

Fund for the Improvement of Education (CFDA No. 84.215)

I. Legislation

Title X, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 8001) (expires September 30, 1999).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1995	\$36,750,000
1996	37,611,000

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The purpose of this program is to support nationally significant programs and projects to improve the quality of education, assist all students to meet challenging state content standards and student performance standards, and contribute to achievement of the National Education Goals through grants to, or contracts with, state and local education agencies (SEAs, LEAs), institutions of higher education, and other public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions. Activities funded under this program provide professional development, curriculum development, assessment development, and demonstration programs related to the improvement of elementary and secondary education.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Services Supported

In FYs 1995 and 1996, the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) continued activities initiated under previous legislative authorities for the Fund for the Innovation in Education and the Fund for the Improvement and Reform of Schools and Teaching. Activities funded in these years were for the development of state content standards and curriculum frameworks, standards-based professional development, comprehensive school health programs, computer-based instruction programs, teacher networking programs, school innovation programs, and family-school partnerships. The Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program and programs originally funded through Goals 2000 to develop standards-based assessments also were continued through FIE. Among the specific activities receiving continuation funding from FIE were the following:

- Goals 2000 Teacher Forum -- to enlist teachers as partners in school reform;

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- State Content Standards Project -- to support the development of state content standards in English, history, geography, civics, and foreign languages;
- Teacher Networking Projects -- to support on-line networks linking teachers with curriculum and instruction specialists;
- Blue Ribbon Schools -- to recognize outstanding schools;
- Assessment Development Grants -- to support nine projects for state assessment activities related to state content standards; and
- Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program -- to provide annual fellowships to support the professional development of outstanding public and private elementary and secondary school teachers.

During FYs 1995 and 1996, new programs were initiated in the following areas:

- Partnerships in Character Education. Eight pilot projects were funded as partnerships between SEAs and LEAs to support locally developed classroom and professional development activities in character education and to support the development of state clearinghouses on character education.
- Elementary School Counseling Partnerships and Middle School-Workplace-Community Partnerships. Ten school-based improvement projects were funded to address the priorities in the statute.
- Elementary School Mathematics and Science Equipment Program. Thirteen one-year projects were funded in 1996 to support the purchase of materials for hands-on instruction in mathematics and science in school districts located in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

Performance indicators are under development.

IV. Planned Studies

Review by program office of reports to be submitted by Partnerships in Character Education grantees.

V. Sources of Information

Program files.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

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